

# CHAPTER 246-105 WAC

## Proposed Change to Varicella Implementation Plan

*State Board of Health Meeting November 12, 2014*



### Background

WAC 246-105-030 requires all children to be vaccinated against varicella, show proof of immunity or document an exemption to varicella before attending school, a licensed child care center or preschool.

The current implementation plan, approved by the State Board of Health in 2008, includes a roll-up every school year for the grades required to have two doses of varicella vaccine or healthcare provider verification of prior disease. The two-dose varicella requirement started with Kindergarten in the 2008-09 school year and moved up a grade every year. The current implementation plan is scheduled to end in the 2020-21 school year. At that point, all grades will be required to have two doses of vaccine or provider verification of disease.

### Current Approved Implementation Plan

Grade	School Year
K-7	2015-2016
K-8	2016-2017
K-9	2017-2018
K-10	2018-2019
K-11	2019-2020
K-12	2020-2021

### Proposed change

There is broad interest and support in shortening the implementation plan. Although vaccination rates are high, more varicella cases are reported among older children and adolescents. In 2006, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommended two doses of varicella vaccine for all children. Shortening the implementation plan will better align with the ACIP Recommended Immunization Schedule.

The proposal is to shorten the timeline to require two doses of varicella vaccine or healthcare provider verification of disease for all students in Kindergarten-12<sup>th</sup> grade by the 2016-17 school year, rather than the 2020-21 school year as in the original approved implementation plan. In school year 2015-16, all students in K-8<sup>th</sup> grade will be required to have two doses of vaccine, adding 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders to the previous roll-up schedule. In school year 2016-17, 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders will be added.

### 2 Year Proposal

Grade	School Year
K-8	2015-2016
K-12	2016-2017

The Department of Health continues to promote full vaccination according to the recommended schedule as the standard of care and best protection.

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